SCOURGE: LOCK-DOWN
PART 4 OF 4
32
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UNIVERSE
BREAKOUT!
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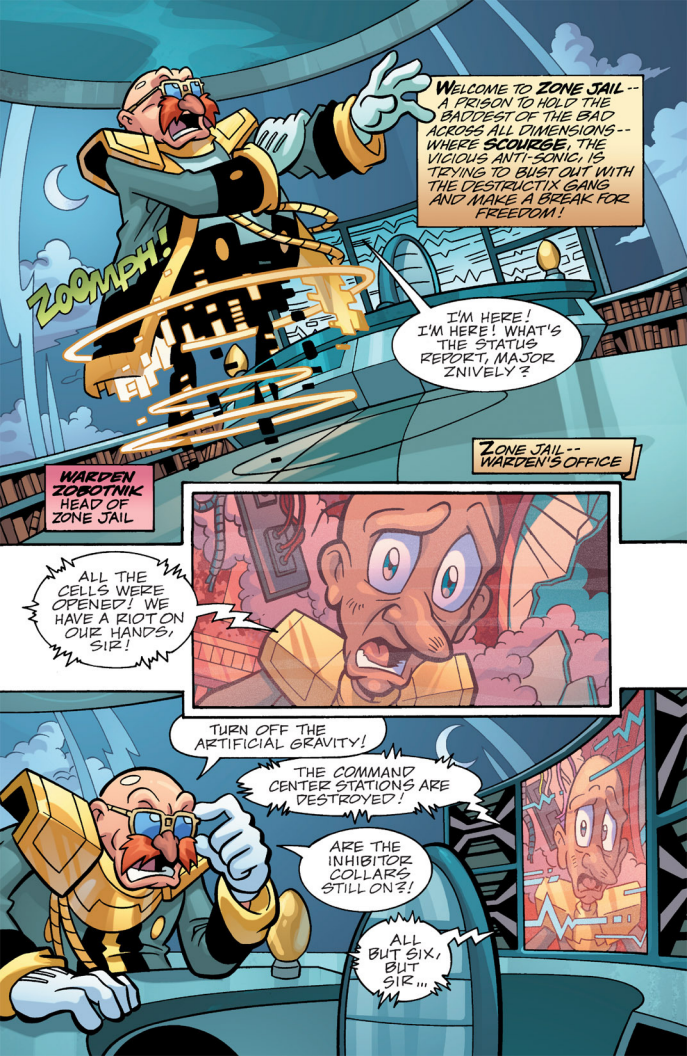
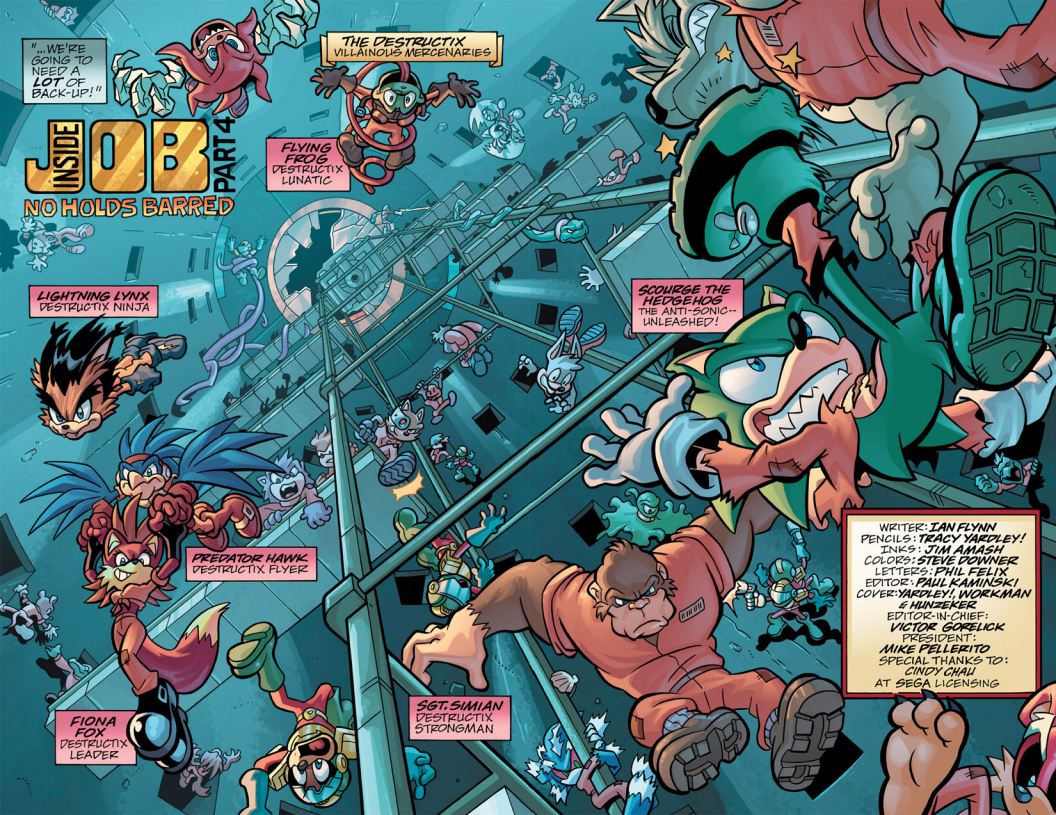

WELCOME TO ZONE JAIL -- A PRISON TO HOLD THE BADDEST OF THE BAD ACROSS ALL DIMENSIONS -- WHERE SCOURGE, THE VICIOUS ANTI-SONIC, IS TRYING TO BUST OUT WITH THE DESTRUCTIX GANG AND MAKE A BREAK FOR FREEDOM!
ZOOMPH!
I'M HERE! I'M HERE! WHAT'S THE STATUS REPORT, MAJOR ZNIVELY?
ZONE JAIL -- WARDEN'S OFFICE
WARDEN ZOBOTNIK HEAD OF ZONE JAIL
ALL THE CELLS WERE OPENED! WE HAVE A RIOT ON OUR HANDS, SIR!
TURN OFF THE ARTIFICIAL GRAVITY!
THE COMMAND CENTER STATIONS ARE DESTROYED!
ARE THE INHIBITOR COLLARS STILL ON?!
ALL BUT SIX, BUT SIR...


"...WE'RE GOING TO NEED A LOT OF BACK-UP!"
INSIDE JOB PART 4
NO HOLDS BARRED
THE DESTRUCTIX VILLAINOUS MERCENARIES
FLYING FROG DESTRUCTIX LUNATIC
LIGHTNING LYNX DESTRUCTIX NINJA
SCOURGE THE HEDGEHOG THE ANTI-SONIC--UNLEASHED!
PREDATOR HAWK DESTRUCTIX FLYER
FIONA FOX DESTRUCTIX LEADER
SGT. SIMIAN DESTRUCTIX STRONGMAN
WRITER: IAN FLYNN
PENCILS: TRACY YARDLEY!
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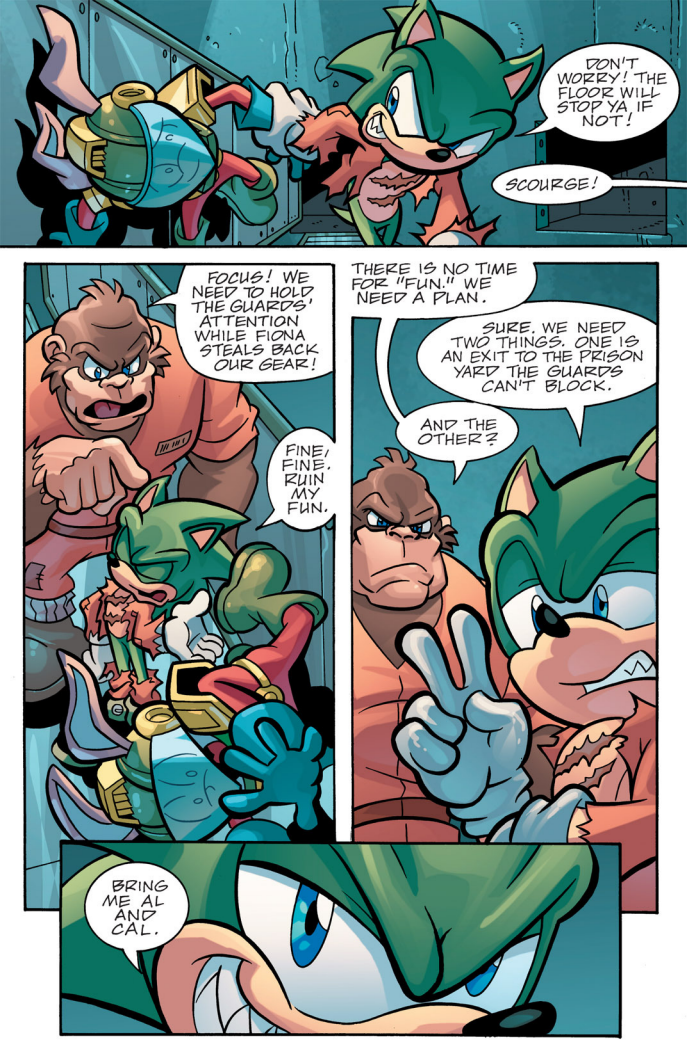
COVER: YARDLEY!, WORKMAN & HUNZEKER
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF: VICTOR GORELICK
PRESIDENT: MIKE PELLERITO
SPECIAL THANKS TO: CINDY OHAI AT SEGA LICENSING

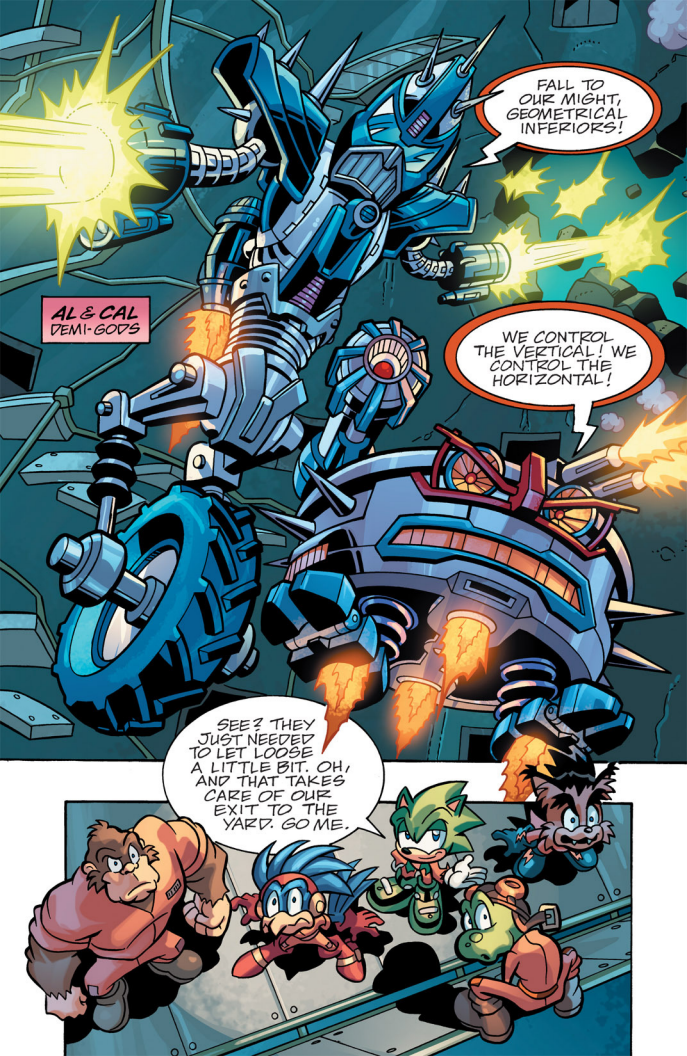
HEY THERE, BOYS! WHO WANTS TO SHAVE DOWN MY SPINES NOW?!
WHAT'S THE MATTER? I DON'T HEAR ANYONE CALLING ME "SNOT" ANYMORE!
WHA-ME-ER-NO!
HEY, DIDN'T YOU DUNK ME LIKE A BASKETBALL ONCE?
WHAM-O! THREE-POINT SHOT!

YOU BIG GUYS ARE SCARED OF LITTLE OLD ME? LET'S TALK THINGS OVER...
...UNTIL YOU'RE SCARED AND SCARRED!
AND YOU GUYS!
THINKING YOU CAN BEAT ME INTO SUBMISSION!
HEY, BUDDY! WANNA SEE IF THE ARTIFICIAL GRAVITY IS WORKING IN YOUR FAVOR?
N-NO! P-PLEASE!
WELL, NOW THE SHOE'S ON THE OTHER FOOT! OR FACE --WHATEVER!

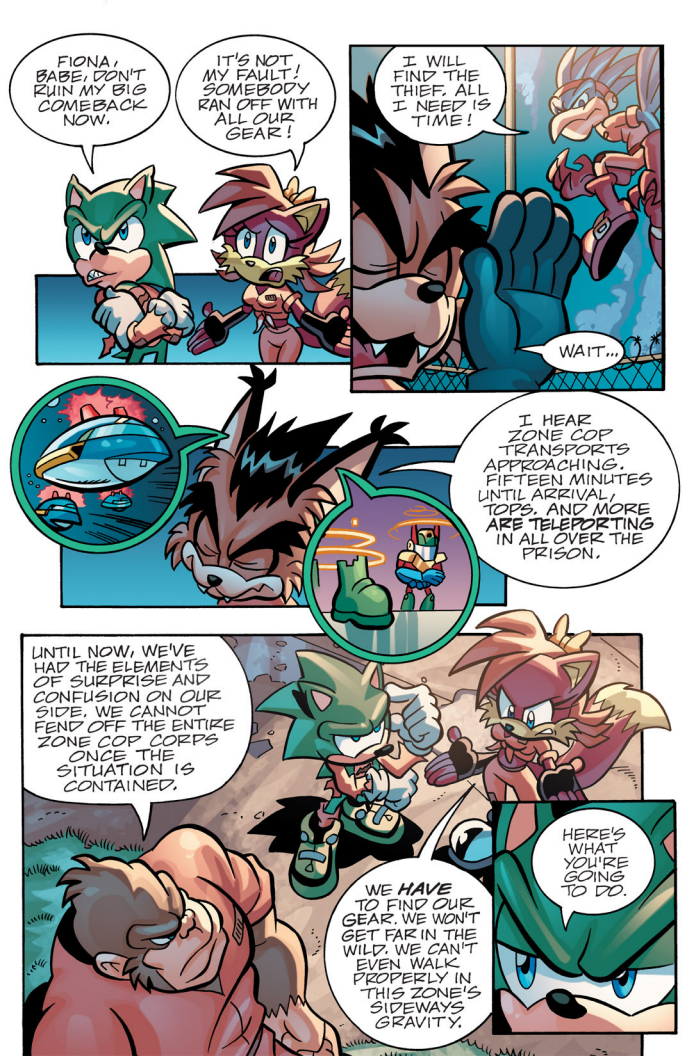

DON'T WORRY! THE FLOOR WILL STOP YA IF NOT!
SCOURGE!
FOCUS! WE NEED TO HOLD THE GUARDS' ATTENTION WHILE FIONA STEALS BACK OUR GEAR!
FINE, FINE. RUIN MY FUN.
THERE IS NO TIME FOR "FUN." WE NEED A PLAN.
SURE. WE NEED TWO THINGS. ONE IS AN EXIT TO THE PRISON YARD THE GUARDS CAN'T BLOCK.
AND THE OTHER?
BRING ME AL AND CAL.

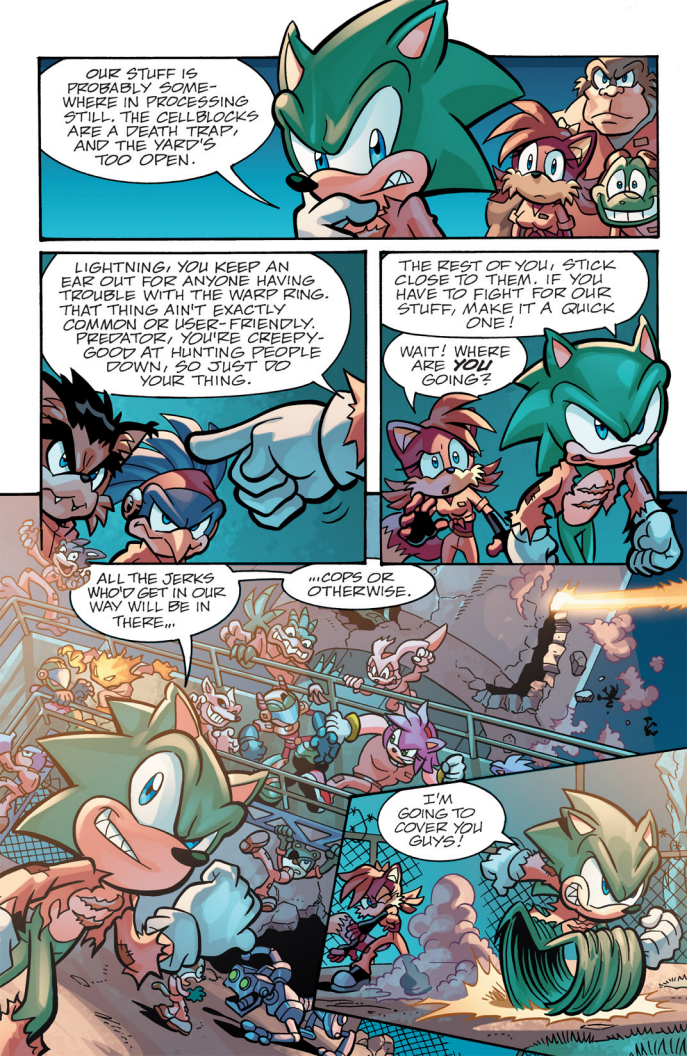
PRISONER PROCESSING...
I GOT BACK THE STUFF THEY TOOK WHEN I WAS ARRESTED-- AND THEN SOME!
I JUST WENT THROUGH ALL THE WALLETS! YOU THINK THIS CASH IS GOOD IN ANY ZONE?
ROW C
MORONS.
THEN AGAIN, ALL THE CONFUSION HERE MIGHT JUST MAKE MY JOB...
ROW D
...EASIER. HEY! WHERE'S ALL OUR STUFF?!
SU 025-028
SU 029-032
AND SCOURGE'S THINGS ARE MISSING, TOO! WHO WOULD'VE RUN OFF WITH OUR STUFF SPECIFICALLY?!
SU 029-032

I FOUND THE WORMS. NOW WHAT?
SNOT! I-I MEAN S-SCOURGE!
WE'RE YOUR PALS, REMEMBER?! YOUR BUDDIES!
VERTI-CAL SCOURGE'S PALS!!
HORIZONT-AL DOESN'T HE REMEMBER?!
I REMEMBER. YOU TWO SHARED YOUR MEALS AND KEPT ME COMPANY WHEN THE REST OF THE PRISON BEAT ME LIKE A PIÑATA.
I'M GETTING MY REVENGE, SO YOU BOYS SHOULD, TOO. SIMIAN, BREAK THEIR COLLARS.
SNAP!
NO! BAD IDEA! BAD IDEA!
THE COLLARS STOP US FROM REVERTING INTO--!
NOOOAARRGH!!


FALL TO OUR MIGHT, GEOMETRICAL INFERIORS!
AL & CAL DEMI-GODS
WE CONTROL THE VERTICAL! WE CONTROL THE HORIZONTAL!
SEE? THEY JUST NEEDED TO LET LOOSE A LITTLE BIT. OH, AND THAT TAKES CARE OF OUR EXIT TO THE YARD. GO ME.

YES, BUT THE HOLES SEEM CRAMMED WITH ALL THE LOVELY SCREAMING PEOPLE!
THEN WE'LL JUST HAVE TO MOVE THEM OUT OF THE WAY, WON'T WE, FELLAS?
THIS IS ALMOST TOO EASY!
BOYS! WE'VE GOT A PROBLEM!


FIONA, BABE, DON'T RUIN MY BIG COMEBACK NOW.
IT'S NOT MY FAULT! SOMEBODY RAN OFF WITH ALL OUR GEAR!
I WILL FIND THE THIEF. ALL I NEED IS TIME!
WAIT...
I HEAR ZONE COP TRANSPORTS APPROACHING. FIFTEEN MINUTES UNTIL ARRIVAL, TOPS. AND MORE ARE TELEPORTING IN ALL OVER THE PRISON.
UNTIL NOW, WE'VE HAD THE ELEMENTS OF SURPRISE AND CONFUSION ON OUR SIDE. WE CANNOT FEND OFF THE ENTIRE ZONE COP CORPS ONCE THE SITUATION IS CONTAINED.
WE HAVE TO FIND OUR GEAR. WE WON'T GET FAR IN THE WILD. WE CAN'T EVEN WALK PROPERLY IN THIS ZONE'S SIDEWAYS GRAVITY.
HERE'S WHAT YOU'RE GOING TO DO.


OUR STUFF IS PROBABLY SOMEWHERE IN PROCESSING STILL. THE CELLBLOCKS ARE A DEATH TRAP, AND THE YARD'S TOO OPEN.
LIGHTNING, YOU KEEP AN EAR OUT FOR ANYONE HAVING TROUBLE WITH THE WARP RING. THAT THING AIN'T EXACTLY COMMON OR USER-FRIENDLY. PREDATOR, YOU'RE CREEPY-GOOD AT HUNTING PEOPLE DOWN, SO JUST DO YOUR THING.
THE REST OF YOU, STICK CLOSE TO THEM. IF YOU HAVE TO FIGHT FOR OUR STUFF, MAKE IT A QUICK ONE!
WAIT! WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
ALL THE JERKS WHO'D GET IN OUR WAY WILL BE IN THERE...
...COPS OR OTHERWISE.
I'M GOING TO COVER YOU GUYS!

APOLOGIES, BOSS. IT SEEMS HE WAS WORTH THE TROUBLE AFTER ALL.
I TOLD YOU MY MEAN, GREEN MAN WOULD COME THROUGH FOR US!
I JUST HOPE HE PLAYS BALL ONCE WE ESCAPE. WE NEED HIM TO FINISH OUR JOB...
"...AND I DON'T WANT TO BETRAY HIM AGAIN."
MOVE IT, LOSERS!
BADDEST OF THE BAD COMING THROUGH!

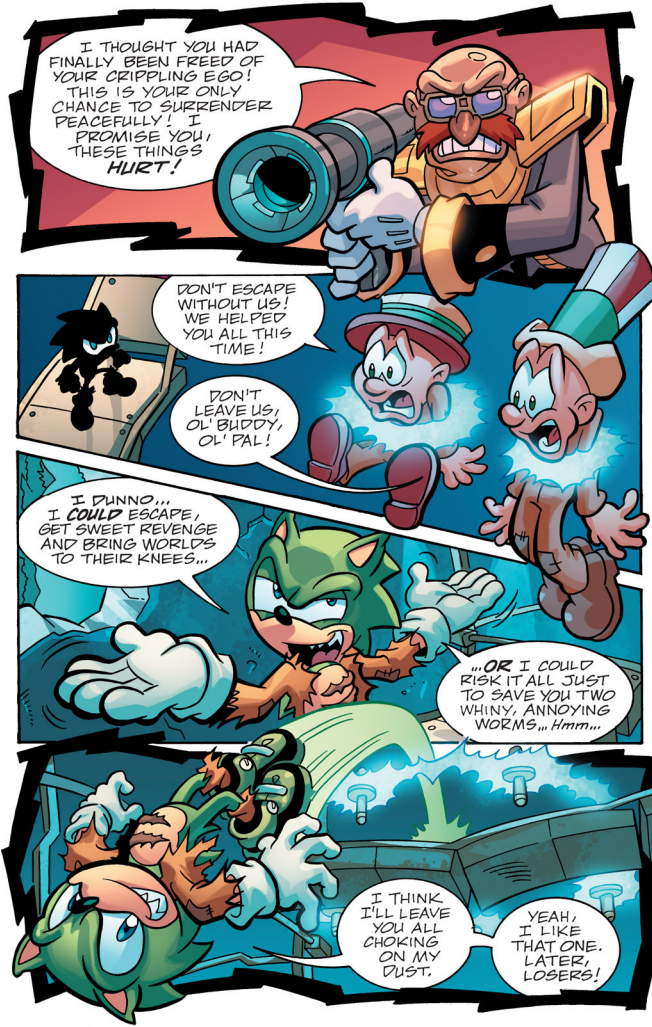
THAT'S RIGHT, PUNKS! KEEP YOUR EYES ON ME!
MY GANG BETTER GET THAT WARP RING AND MAKE MY WAY OUT OF HERE! THIS SHOW OF FORCE AIN'T CHARITY WORK!
SURE, I'M KEEPING THE GUARDS AND COPS BUSY. TECHNICALLY, I'M COVERING THEM LIKE I SAID I WOULD...
...BUT REALLY, I JUST WANTED ANOTHER SHOT AT EVERYONE IN HERE!

I'M STRONGER THAN EVERYONE IN THIS DUMP...
...I'VE FOUGHT SONIC AND SHADOW TO A STAND-STILL AT THE SAME TIME...
...I STOMPED MY ENTIRE PLANET INTO SUB-MISSION!
I AM SCOURGE! BOW BEFORE MY MIGHTY AWESOMENESS! BOW TO YOUR SUPERIOR!

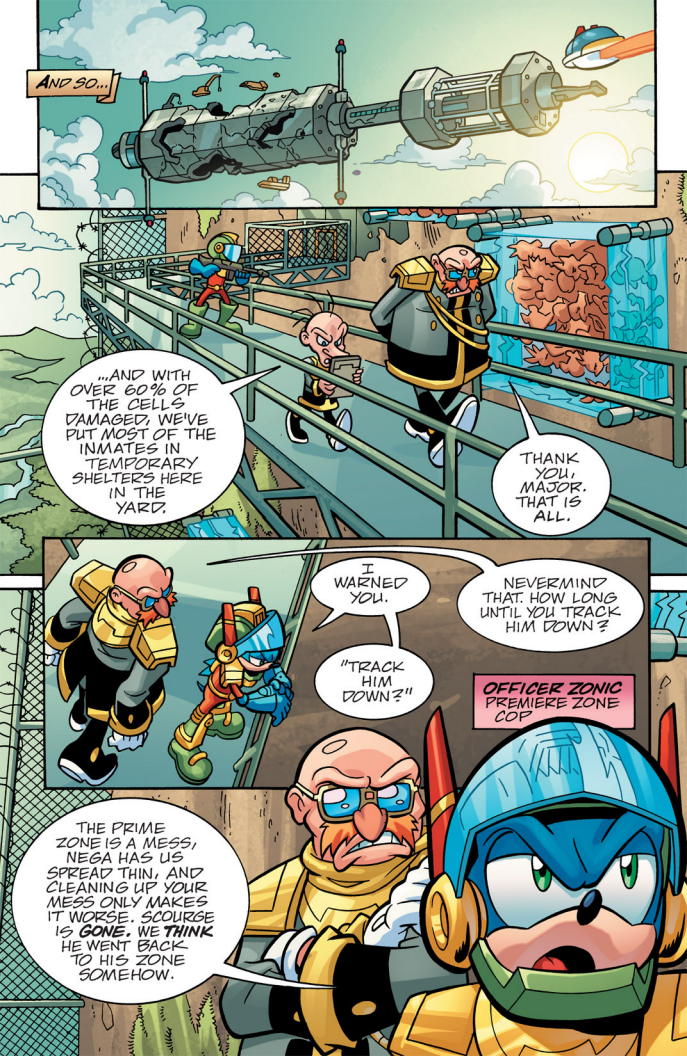
JUST THINK, JEFFREY! MY TRIUMPHANT RETURN! A WORLD ALREADY PRIMED FOR MY IRON-FISTED RULE!
KING MAXX FORMER KING OF MOEBIUS
JEFFREY ST. CROIX SCOURGE'S OLD GANG RIVAL
AND THEN I'LL TAKE THE THRONE AND DANCE ON YOUR GRAVE, YOU POSTURING...
I DIDN'T QUITE CATCH THAT, DEAR, LOYAL JEFFREY.
I-I-I SAID I'M STILL LOOKING FOR THE DEVICE!
THEY PLANNED THIS. THAT MEANS THEY HAD A WAY OUT. IT'S NOT LIKE YOU CAN JUST WALK ONTO THE COSMIC INTERSTATE...
TINK!
PHWOOM!

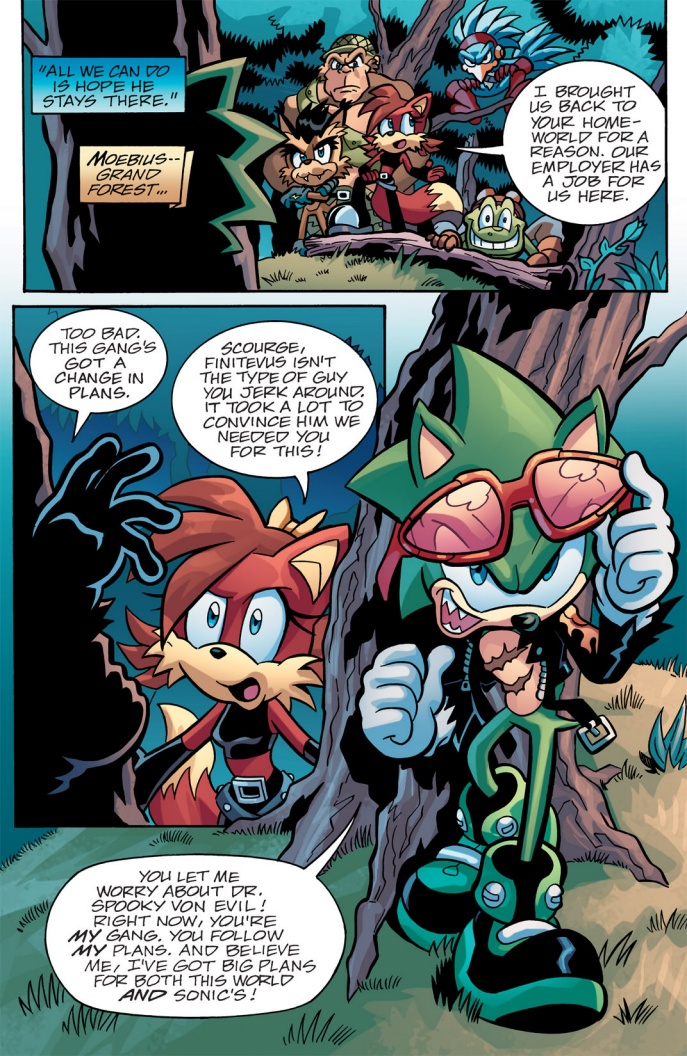
WELL DONE, MY BOY.
Er... SURE. NOTHING TO IT.
THUD!
WHAT... WHAT WAS...?
YOUR CLOTHES, M'LADY. AND I WON'T TRY TO WEAR THEM THIS TIME.
VERY GOOD, FLYING. WE DON'T HAVE ENOUGH TIME FOR ME TO SMACK SOME SENSE INTO YOU.
MORE'S THE PITY.
CHANGE INTO YOUR STUFF AND GRAB THE WARP RING, BOYS. I'LL JUST BE A MINUTE.

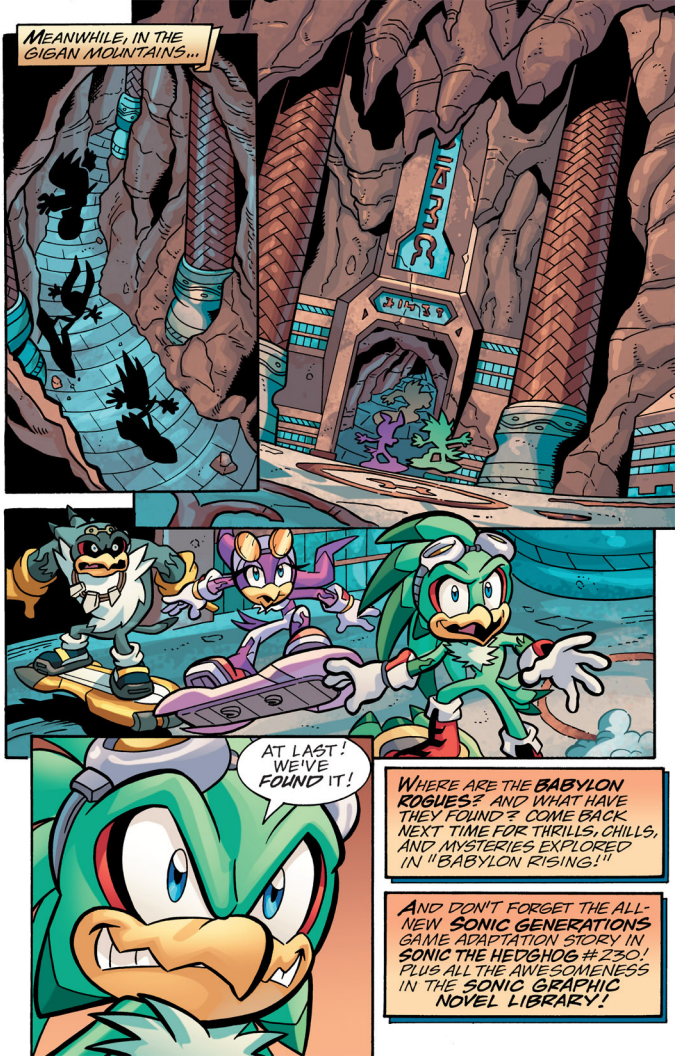
YOU'VE FORCED ME TO DO THIS, YOU TWO! FIRE F.O.E.* INHIBITORS!
*FIELD OF EFFECT.
AAARGH!
STAY DOWN!
SCOURGE!
AWW... PARTY'S OVER?


I THOUGHT YOU HAD FINALLY BEEN FREED OF YOUR CRIPPLING EGO! THIS IS YOUR ONLY CHANCE TO SURRENDER PEACEFULLY! I PROMISE YOU, THESE THINGS HURT!
DON'T ESCAPE WITHOUT US! WE HELPED YOU ALL THIS TIME!
DON'T LEAVE US, OL' BUDDY, OL' PAL!
I DUNNO,,, I COULD ESCAPE, GET SWEET REVENGE AND BRING WORLDS TO THEIR KNEES...
...OR I COULD RISK IT ALL JUST TO SAVE YOU TWO WHINY, ANNOYING WORMS... Hmm...
I THINK I'LL LEAVE YOU ALL CHOKING ON MY DUST.
YEAH, I LIKE THAT ONE. LATER, LOSERS!

I WANT THAT HEDGEHOG! I AUTHORIZE FULL USE OF ANYTHING! JUST BRING HIM DOWN!
HEY, BABE! WE'RE READY TO ROLL!
THEN ROLL ALREADY! GET ME OUTTA HERE!
PHWOW!
FWASH!


AND SO...
...AND WITH OVER 60% OF THE CELLS DAMAGED, WE'VE PUT MOST OF THE INMATES IN TEMPORARY SHELTERS HERE IN THE YARD.
THANK YOU, MAJOR. THAT IS ALL.
I WARNED YOU.
NEVERMIND THAT. HOW LONG UNTIL YOU TRACK HIM DOWN?
"TRACK HIM DOWN?"
OFFICER ZONIC
PREMIERE ZONE COP
THE PRIME ZONE IS A MESS, NEGA HAS US SPREAD THIN, AND CLEANING UP YOUR MESS ONLY MAKES IT WORSE. SCOURGE IS GONE. WE THINK HE WENT BACK TO HIS ZONE SOMEHOW.


"ALL WE CAN DO IS HOPE HE STAYS THERE."
MOEBIUS-- GRAND FOREST...
I BROUGHT US BACK TO YOUR HOME-WORLD FOR A REASON. OUR EMPLOYER HAS A JOB FOR US HERE.
TOO BAD. THIS GANG'S GOT A CHANGE IN PLANS.
SCOURGE, FINITEVUS ISN'T THE TYPE OF GUY YOU JERK AROUND. IT TOOK A LOT TO CONVINCE HIM WE NEEDED YOU FOR THIS!
YOU LET ME WORRY ABOUT DR. SPOOKY VON EVIL! RIGHT NOW, YOU'RE MY GANG. YOU FOLLOW MY PLANS. AND BELIEVE ME, I'VE GOT BIG PLANS FOR BOTH THIS WORLD AND SONIC'S!


MEANWHILE, IN THE GIGAN MOUNTAINS...
AT LAST! WE'VE FOUND IT!
WHERE ARE THE BABYLON ROGUES? AND WHAT HAVE THEY FOUND? COME BACK NEXT TIME FOR THRILLS, CHILLS, AND MYSTERIES EXPLORED IN "BABYLON RISING!"
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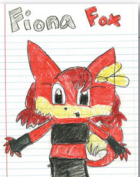

Stephanie O.
from Arizona

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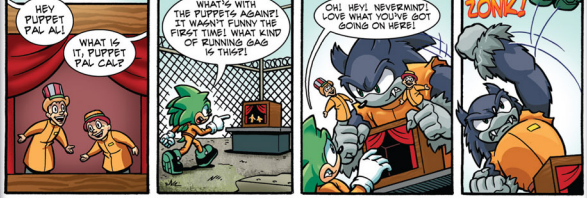
OFF PANEL INSIDE JOB


HEY PUPPET PAL AL!
WHAT IS IT, PUPPET PAL CAL?
WHAT'S WITH THE PUPPETS AGAIN? IT WASN'T FUNNY THE FIRST TIME! WHAT KIND OF RUNNING GAG IS THIS?!
OH! HEY! NEVERMIND! LOVE WHAT YOU'VE GOT GOING ON HERE!
ZONK!

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